

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /133 W

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R 031747Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8053

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS PARIS 8225

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH REACTION TO CALLAGHAN STATEMENT

SUMMARY:.. WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO UNDERPLAY SERIOUSNESS OF
INTERNAL EC CRISIS, THE FRENCH PRESS FOUND THE BLUNT
CALLAGHAN STATEMENT AT LUXEMBOURG EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
MEETING AS ONE DESIGNED PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC
BRITISH CONSUMPTION, PARTICULARLY THE HARD CORE ANTI-
MARKET GROUP WITHIN LABOUR PARTY. PRESS COMMENTS
GENERALLY AGREED THAT LABOURITE FRONTAL ASSAULT ON
COMMUNITY IS UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT THE EC MUST NOT
COMPROMISE OR UNDO ANY GOALS ALREADY ACHIEVED. REACTION
ALSO PORTRAYED THE LUXEMBOURG MOOD AS EIGHT SOLIDLY
AGAINST ONE WITH THE FRENCH FONMIN MERELY EXPRESSING
MORE BLUNTLY FEELINGS ALSO SHARED BY OTHER EC MEMBERS.

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LAST, TWO PAPERS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT BEST HOPE TO

MAINTAIN COMMUNITY OF NINE IS TO APPROACH PROBLEMS ON AN ISSUE BY ISSUE BASIS. IN THIS WAY, SOME MEETING OF THE MINDS CAN POSSIBLY BE ACHIEVED BY EC WITH THE NEW LABOUR PARTY GOVERNMENT.

1. "LE MONDE" DESCRIBED CALLAGHAN'S TONE AS "BRUTAL" AND THAT HE MANIFESTED THE OLD BRITISH DESIRE TO BE AT THE SAME TIME BOTH IN AND OUT OF EUROPE. "DIDN'T MR. CALLAGHAN ALSO WISH TO SHOW HIS COMPATRIOTS THAT HE KNEW HOW TO TALK TO THE CONTINENTALS AND THAT IF HE FAILED, NO ONE ELSE WAS IN A POSITION TO DO BETTER" ?

2. "FIGARO" FOUND THE BRITISH FONMIN STATEMENTS MOST DISTURBING AND POINTED TO A PERIOD OF STAGNATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE. THE NEWSPAPER POINTED OUT THAT HE STRUCK AT THE HEART OF GREEN EUROPE IN ASKING THAT MEMBER STATES BE FREE TO BUY THEIR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY IF LESS EXPENSIVE. "THE DISCUSSION IN LUXEMBOURG POINTS TOWARD DIFFICULT MONTHS FOR EUROPE. MR. KISSINGER'S OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE COMMUNITY AND THE BRITISH ATTITUDE HAVE INTRODUCED, INTO THE WORK AND LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY, A SERIOUS CONSTRAINT WHICH WILL BRING ABOUT AT THE VERY LEAST AN UNFORTUNATE LOSS OF TIME".

3. IN "COMBAT'S" VIEW, "THE BALCKMAIL PRACTICED LONG AGO BY DEGAULLE IS NOW BEING USED BY OTHERS. GREAT BRITAIN IS PROPOSING THE THREAT THAT EITHER EC TAKE OUR DEMANDS INTO CONSIDERATION OR WE WILL LEAVE. IF UK VIEWS PREVAIL, ANY MEMBER OF THE NINE WILL CONSIDER IT HIS RIGHT TO DO AS MUCH. THE MARRIAGE CONTRACT WILL BE TORN UP EVERYTIME THER IS A FAMILY FIGHT".

4. ACCORDING TO THE GAULLIST "LA NATION", THE LUXEMBOURG MEETING WITH LABOURITE BRITAIN HAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT THE CONTRADICTIONS IN THE LABOUR PARTY'S EUROPEAN POLICY. "IN ANY CASE, BRITAIN IS THE PETITIONER IN THIS AFFAIR AND NOT THE EUROPEANS. THE LATTER ARE NOT CLOSING THE DOOR, BUT BY INSISTING ON EUROPE'S INDISSOLUBLE CHARACTER, THEY ARE SHOWING THE UK THE PATH TO FOLLOW:
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THAT OF EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY IN FACT."

5. "L'AUORE" COMMENTED THAT MR. CALLAGHAN SET THE CONDITIONS FOR STAYING IN THE COMMUNITY. IT WROTE, "AND WHAT CONDITIONS * ALL OF THE ADVANTAGES AND NONE OF THE DISADVANTAGES; ALL OF THE BENEFITS AND NO SACRIFICES. THE LABOURITES HAVE A STRANGE WAY OF HONORING DIPLOMATIC OBLIGATIONS."STONE

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Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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